

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method for providing supply chain/workflow services in a contract  
2 manufacturing framework comprising the steps of:  
3 (a) providing a database including a plurality of service provider data structures,  
4 wherein each service provider data structure includes a description of a  
5 particular service provider, and wherein the database further includes a  
6 request for proposal mechanism;  
7 (b) identifying a particular service provider data structure based on a request for  
8 proposal from a user utilizing the request for proposal mechanism; and  
9 (c) affording project management services to the user based on the request for  
10 proposal and the identified service provider data structure.
- 1 2. A method as recited in claim 1, further including the step of tracking a status  
2 of manufacturing processes performed by the identified service provider.
- 1 3. A method as recited in claim 1, further including the step of allowing the user  
2 to inquiry service engineers.
- 1 4. A method as recited in claim 1, further including the step of allowing the user  
2 to inquiry service chemists.
- 1 5. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the database is accessed utilizing a  
2 network.
- 1 6. A method as recited in claim 5, wherein the network is the Internet.
- 1 7. A computer program embodied on a computer readable medium for  
2 providing supply chain/workflow services in a contract manufacturing  
3 framework comprising:

- 4 (a) a code segment for providing a database including a plurality of service  
5 provider data structures, wherein each service provider data structure  
6 includes a description of a particular service provider, and wherein the  
7 database further includes a request for proposal mechanism;  
8 (b) a code segment for identifying a particular service provider data structure  
9 based on a request for proposal from a user utilizing the request for proposal  
10 mechanism; and  
11 (c) a code segment for affording project management services to the user based  
12 on the request for proposal and the identified service provider data structure.

1 8. A computer program as recited in claim 7, further including a code segment  
2 for tracking a status of manufacturing processes performed by the identified  
3 service provider.

1 9. A computer program as recited in claim 7, further including a code segment  
2 for allowing the user to inquiry service engineers.

1 10. A computer program as recited in claim 7, further including a code segment  
2 for allowing the user to inquiry service chemists.

1 11. A computer program as recited in claim 7, wherein the database is accessed  
2 utilizing a network.

1 12. A computer program as recited in claim 11, wherein the network is the  
2 Internet.

1 13. A system for providing supply chain/workflow services in a contract  
2 manufacturing framework comprising:  
3 (a) logic for providing a database including a plurality of service provider data  
4 structures, wherein each service provider data structure includes a description  
5 of a particular service provider, and wherein the database further includes a  
6 request for proposal mechanism;

- 
